UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FARA REGISTRATION UNIT CRIMINAL DIVISION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

| | YES | | or NO | |
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BARBADOS AND BOTSWANA SIGN DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT

Bridgetown, Barbados, February 23, 2005

Today in the Africa Gallery of the Barbados Museum, the Government of Barbados and the Republic of Botswana signed a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains (DTA).

The Hon. Dale D. Marshall, Minister responsible for Industry and International Business signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of Barbados. The Hon. Phandu T.C Skelemani, the Minister responsible for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration signed on behalf of the Republic of Botswana.

During his official visit to Botswana in June 2004 Barbados' Prime Minister, the Hon. Owen Arthur discussed a number of key issues with Botswana President Fetus Mogae. One of the items identified was the negotiation of a Barbados/Botswana DTA. In September of that year a first round of DTA negotiations was held in London. A month later a second round of talks was held in Botswana culminating in the initialing of a draft agreement which was later finalized through an exchange of letters.

Today's signing demonstrates Barbados' commitment to expanding its treaty network and the importance it attaches to deepening economic ties with Africa and Botswana in particular.

Barbados and Botswana sign Double Taxation Agreement

DTAs are recognized as one of the most effective mechanisms for encouraging cross-border trade and investment. With this agreement in place it is expected that the cost of doing business between Barbados and Botswana will be reduced as well as the mitigation of fiscal impediments to the export of goods and services between the two States.

Botswana has a wealth of nature resources and is one of the world's largest producers of diamonds. Barbados as maturing international business and financial services centre anticipates that the Barbados/Botswana DTA will usher a new era of economic ties between the two countries.

In September 2004 Barbados signed both a DTA and a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Mauritius. During the period 2003-2004 Barbados held DTA negotiations with the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and held technical discussions with Brazil. Work continues within the Ministry of Industry and International Business to bring these negotiations to successful conclusions.

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The Barbados/Botswana DTA will enter into force once the procedures required by the law in the respective jurisdictions have been completed. The Agreement will then be available at the Ministry of Industry and International Business, the Government Printery and online at www.barbadosbusiness.gov.bb

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